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IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND the claims in accordance with the following:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A noise light elimination method comprising:

amplifying a signal light by an optical amplifying section so that a power of signal light components in the amplified signal light exceeds a threshold value, and a power of noise light components in the amplified signal light is smaller than the threshold value;

applying the amplified signal light to a stimulated Brillouin scattering generating medium that generates a return light due to stimulated Brillouin scattering when a light having a power exceeding the threshold value is applied; and

extracting the return light generated by the stimulated Brillouin scattering generating medium as the amplified signal light, to thereby eliminate the noise light components in the amplified signal light;

wherein output light power of said optical amplifying section is set based on said threshold value and insertion loss of optical parts arranged between an output end of said optical amplifying section, and an input end of the stimulated Brillouin scattering generating medium, and wherein said threshold value is variably set in accordance with the stimulated Brillouin scattering generating medium, and ~~the insertion loss of the optical parts is added to said threshold value~~said output light power is set at a level exceeding a sum of said threshold value and the value of the insertion loss of the optical parts arranged between the output end of said optical amplifying section and the input end of the stimulated Brillouin scattering generating medium.

2. (ORIGINAL) A noise light elimination method according to claim 1,

wherein a power of the return light generated by said stimulated Brillouin scattering generation medium is adjusted.

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A noise light elimination apparatus comprising:
a stimulated Brillouin scattering generating medium that generates a return light due to stimulated Brillouin scattering when a light having a power exceeding a threshold value is applied to the stimulated Brillouin scattering generating medium ;
an optical amplifying section that amplifies a signal light so that a power of signal light components in the amplified signal light exceeds the threshold value, and a power of noise light components in the amplified signal light is smaller than the threshold value; and
an optical input/output section that applies the signal light amplified by said optical amplifying section to said stimulated Brillouin scattering generating medium, and extracts the return light generated by said stimulated Brillouin scattering generating medium as the amplified signal light,
wherein output light power of said optical amplifying section is set based on said threshold value and insertion loss of optical parts arranged between an output end of said optical amplifying section, and an input end of said stimulated Brillouin scattering generating medium, and wherein said threshold value is variably set in accordance with the stimulated Brillouin scattering generating medium, and ~~the insertion loss of the optical parts is added to said threshold value~~ said output light power is set at a level exceeding a sum of said threshold value and the value of the insertion loss of the optical parts arranged between the output end of said optical amplifying section and the input end of said stimulated Brillouin scattering generating medium.

4. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A noise light elimination apparatus according to claim 3, further comprising:
an adjusting section that adjusts a power of the return light generated by said stimulated Brillouin scattering generation medium.

5. (ORIGINAL) A noise light elimination apparatus according to claim 4,
wherein said adjusting section includes an optical amplifier that amplifies said return light.

6. (ORIGINAL) A noise light elimination apparatus according to claim 4,
wherein said adjusting section includes an optical attenuator that attenuates said return light.

7. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A noise light elimination apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising:
a detection section that detects a power of the return light outputting from said adjusting section; and
a control section that controls an operation of said adjusting section based on a detection result of said detection section.
8. (ORIGINAL) A noise light elimination apparatus according to claim 3,
wherein said stimulated Brillouin scattering generating medium is provided in a form of an optical transmission path.
9. (ORIGINAL) A noise light elimination apparatus according to claim 8,
wherein an optical fiber is used for said stimulated Brillouin scattering generating medium.
10. (ORIGINAL) A noise light elimination apparatus according to claim 8,
wherein an optical waveguide is used for said stimulated Brillouin scattering generating medium.
11. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A noise light elimination apparatus according to claim 8,
wherein another end of said stimulated Brillouin scattering generating medium positioned on an opposite side to one end to which the signal light amplified by said optical amplifying section is applied, is subjected to non-reflection termination treatment.
12. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A noise light elimination apparatus according to claim 3,
wherein said optical input/output section comprises an optical coupler having at least three ports, and an optical isolator, and the signal light amplified by said optical amplifier is input to a first port of said optical coupler and output from a second port of said optical coupler to said stimulated Brillouin scattering generation medium, and the return light generated by said stimulated Brillouin scattering generation medium is input to the second port of said optical coupler and branched into two to be output from the first port and a third port, respectively, and

transmission of the return light outputting from the first port of said optical coupler to said optical amplifying section is blocked by said optical isolator.

13. (ORIGINAL) A noise light elimination apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said optical input/output section includes an optical circulator arranged between an optical output end of said optical amplifying section and an optical input end of said stimulated Brillouin scattering generating medium.

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An optical transmission system for amplifying a signal light sent from an optical transmission device to an optical transmission path, by optical repeaters arranged on the optical transmission path, to ~~repeatedly~~repeatedly transmit the signal light to an optical receiving device, comprising:

at least one of the noise light elimination apparatus recited in claim 3 on the optical transmission path.

15. (ORIGINAL) An optical transmission system according to claim 14, wherein said optical receiving device includes a demultiplexer that demultiplexes the signal light transmitted on said optical transmission path, in accordance with a wavelength thereof, and said demultiplexer has filter characteristics where a center wavelength of a transmission band is set in accordance with a wavelength shift amount due to stimulated Brillouin scattering occurring in said noise light elimination apparatus.

16. (ORIGINAL) An optical transmission system according to claim 15, wherein said demultiplexer includes an arrayed wave guide grating capable of adjusting the filter characteristics.

17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method comprising:
providing a stimulated Brillouin scattering (SBS) generating medium that generates a return light due to SBS when a light having a power exceeding a threshold value of the SBS generating medium is input to the SBS generating medium, wherein
the threshold value is variably set in accordance with the SBS generating medium, and
a value of insertion loss of optical parts arranged between an optical amplifying section and an input end of the SBS generating medium is added to the threshold value;

amplifying a signal light so that a power of signal light components in the amplified signal light exceeds a sum of the threshold value of the SBS generating medium and the value of the insertion loss of the optical parts arranged between the optical amplifying section and the input end of the SBS generating medium, and so that a power of noise light components in the amplified signal light is smaller than the threshold value of the SBS generating medium;

inputting the amplified signal light to the SBS generating medium so that a return light is thereby generated in response to the signal light components in the amplified signal light; and

extracting the return light generated by the SBS generating medium in response to the signal light components in the amplified signal light, to thereby eliminate the noise light components from the amplified signal light.

18. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method as in claim 17, further comprising:
providing the extracted return light to a transmission line as the amplified signal light.

19. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus comprising:

means for providing a stimulated Brillouin scattering (SBS) generating medium that generates a return light due to SBS when a light having a power exceeding a threshold value of the SBS generating medium is input to the SBS generating medium, wherein

the threshold value is variably set in accordance with the SBS generating medium, and

a value of insertion loss of optical parts arranged between an optical amplifying section and an input end of the SBS generating medium is added to the threshold value;

means for amplifying a signal light so that a power of signal light components in the amplified signal light exceeds a sum of the threshold value of the SBS generating medium and the value of the insertion loss of the optical parts arranged between an optical amplifying section and an input end of the SBS generating medium, and so that a power of noise light components in the amplified signal light is smaller than the threshold value of the SBS generating medium;

means for inputting the amplified signal light to the SBS generating medium so that a return light is thereby generated in response to the signal light components in the amplified signal light; and

means for extracting the return light generated by the SBS generating medium in response to the signal light components in the amplified signal light, to thereby eliminate the noise light components from the amplified signal light.

20. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method comprising:

inputting an amplified signal light to a stimulated Brillouin scattering (SBS) generating medium, the inputted amplified signal light having a signal light component with a power exceeding a sum of a threshold value of the SBS generating medium at which return light due to SBS is generated in the SBS generating medium and a value of insertion loss of optical parts arranged between an optical amplifying section and an input end of the SBS generating medium, and having a noise light component with a power smaller than the threshold value, to thereby cause the SBS generating medium to generate return light in response to the signal light component in the amplified signal light but not generate a return light in response to the noise light component, wherein

the threshold value is variably set in accordance with the SBS generating medium, and

the value of the insertion loss of optical parts arranged between an the optical amplifying section and an the input end of the SBS generating medium is added to the threshold value; and

extracting the return light generated by the SBS generating medium in response to the signal light component in the amplified signal light.

21. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method as in claim 20, further comprising:
providing the extracted return light to a transmission line as the amplified signal light.

22. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus comprising:

means for inputting an amplified signal light to a stimulated Brillouin scattering (SBS) generating medium, the inputted amplified signal light having a signal light component with a power exceeding a sum of a threshold value of the SBS generating medium at which return light due to SBS is generated in the SBS generating medium and a value of insertion loss of optical parts arranged between an optical amplifying section and an input end of the SBS generating medium, and having a noise light component with a power smaller than the threshold value, to thereby cause the SBS generating medium to generate return light in response to the signal light component in the amplified signal light but not generate a return light in response to the noise light component, wherein

the threshold value is variably set in accordance with the SBS generating medium, and

the value of the insertion loss of optical parts arranged between an the optical

amplifying section and ~~an~~the input end of the SBS generating medium is added to said threshold value; and

means for extracting the return light generated by the SBS generating medium in response to the signal light component in the amplified signal light.